

Message Text

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ORIGIN SR-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY S/R:FTURNER

5/20/74 EXT. 22005

APPROVED BY S/R:FTURNER

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R 201605Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION GENEVA 2328

UNCLAS STATE 102951

FOLLOWING SENT MOSCOW INFO LENINGRAD FROM SECSTATE WASHDC
17 MAY 74:

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 102951

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SENATOR KENNEDY'S COMMENTS ON VISIT TO SOVIET
UNION.

REF: MOSCOW 6923

1. SENATOR KENNEDY MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON EMIGRATION
DURING WASHINGTON STRAIGHT TALK INTERVIEW: INTERVIEWER
PAUL DUKE: SENATOR, DID THE RUSSIAN LEADERS GIVE YOU ANY
INDICATION THAT THEY INTEND TO LIBERALIZE THEIR POLICIES
ON PERMITTING JEWS TO EMIGRATE? SENATOR KENNEDY: NO. THEY
TOOK THE STRONGEST STAND ON THIS ISSUE. THEY FEEL IT'S A
DOMESTIC ISSUE; IT'S AN INTERNAL MATTER. AT A LOWER
ECHELON, YOU'D HEAR "WHAT IF WE TIED AN ARMS LIMITATION TO
THE UNITED STATES PERMITTING PEOPLE TO GO TO CUBA? THE
UNITED STATES DOESN'T PERMIT PEOPLE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE TO GO
TO CUBA. AND THIS IS AN INTERNAL MATTER, THAT WE RESPECT
THE UNITED STATES. WHY DOESN'T THE UNITED STATES STAY OUT
OF INTERNAL MATTERS IN THE SOVIET UNION?

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THEY POINT OUT THAT THEY'VE INCREASED THE NUMBERS FROM THE EARLY SEVENTIES, FROM A THOUSAND TO APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND, AND THAT THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE REMAINED IN THERE HAVE BEEN PRINCIPALLY SECURITY CASES. I PRESSED THE TOP SOVIET LEADERS TO THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS BASICALLY A COUNTRY OF IMMIGRANTS, THAT HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN LIBERTIES ARE SOMETHING WHICH ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS UNITED STATES IN A HIGHLY MOBILE SOCIETY, MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE IN OUR OWN NATION (SIC) AND THE VALUE THAT WE PLACE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THAT WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE ISN'T A GREATER RESPECT FOR THIS, AND THAT AS WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN TERMS OF EVENTUALLY SETTling THE VIETNAM WAR, IN THE SALT I AND OUR CONVERSATIONS NOW ON SALT AND OTHER AREAS, THAT WE'RE GOING TO PERHAPS BE MORE--BE MORE PERCEPTIVE AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE CRITICAL OF SOME OF THE THINGS THAT ARE GOING ON IN THERE.

BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BE AN EASILY RESOLVED ISSUE OR QUESTION. I TRIED IN MY CONVERSATIONS TO COMMUNICATE THE SENSE AND THE INTENSITY OF THE FEELING OF THE AMERICANS ON THIS ISSUE. AND I MET WITH SOME OF THE JEWS THEMSELVES, WHICH WAS A VERY MOVING EXPERIENCE, A VERY TRAGIC EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU SEE THE KIND OF HARASSMENT THAT THEY'VE BEEN SUBJECT TO.

2. COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT BEING POUCHED TO BOTH EMBASSY AND CONGEN. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMMIGRATION CONTROL, JEWS, CODELS, PRESS CONFERENCES, EMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE102951
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FTURNER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740122-0536
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740538/aaaabhlq.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 6923
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR KENNEDY'S COMMENTS ON VISIT TO SOVIET UNION.
TAGS: PFOR, OREP, UR, US, (KENNEDY, EDWARD M)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005